

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

MIGUEL A. CRUZ, and JOHN D. HANSEN, ) Case Nos. 07-2050 SC  
individually and on behalf of all ) 07-4012 SC  
others similarly situated, )  
Plaintiffs, ) ORDER RE: MOTIONS  
v. )  
DOLLAR TREE STORES, INC., )  
Defendant. )  
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ROBERT RUNNINGS, individually, and )  
on behalf of all others similarly )  
situated, )  
Plaintiffs, )  
v. )  
DOLLAR TREE STORES, INC., )  
Defendant. )  
\_\_\_\_\_

Defendant Dollar Tree Stores, Inc. ("Dollar Tree" or "Defendant") filed nine motions that are on the Court's November 19, 2010 calendar. Runnings Docket, ECF Nos. 272, 284, 286, 288, 290, 292, 295, 300, 304. Having considered all the papers submitted in support of, and in opposition to, the motions, the Court denies all nine motions.

1. The Court denies Defendant's Motion for Summary Adjudication of Class Issues and Claims, and Alternative Motion to Decertify the Class. The main issue in this case is whether 273 Dollar Tree store managers who responded "no" at least once on

1 Dollar Tree's weekly payroll certifications were mis-classified by  
2 Dollar Tree as exempt from overtime compensation. To qualify for  
3 the executive exemption, an employee must (1) manage the  
4 enterprise or a subdivision; (2) direct the work of others; (3)  
5 have the authority to hire or fire; (4) exercise discretion and  
6 independent judgment; (5) be primarily engaged in exempt activity  
7 more than half the time; and (6) earn a salary equal to twice the  
8 minimum wage. While the parties agree that Dollar Tree store  
9 managers earn a salary equal to twice the minimum wage, the Court  
10 finds that there are material issues of fact as to whether the  
11 other prongs of the executive exemption test are satisfied. Also,  
12 the Court denies Dollar Tree's alternative motion to decertify  
13 because Dollar Tree's defenses and realistic expectations  
14 concerning how store managers were spending their time are likely  
15 to prove susceptible to common proof at trial.

16 2. Having denied the Motion for Summary Adjudication  
17 regarding the class as a whole, the Court also denies Defendant's  
18 motions for summary judgment filed against individual class  
19 members Scott Diehl, Diana Durston, Mike Deubert, Paul Avila, and  
20 Allen Vogel. See In re Unisys Corp., No. 93-1668, 2002 U.S. Dist.  
21 LEXIS 25737, at \*12 (E.D. Pa. Jan. 30, 2002) ("The Court's denial  
22 of summary judgment as to the class as a whole, however, is  
23 binding as to all individual class members.").

24 3. The Court denies Defendant's Motion for Summary Judgment  
25 Based on Bankruptcy Filings. The Court is not persuaded that  
26 absent class members who have filed for bankruptcy and who have  
27 not opted out of this case should be judicially estopped from  
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1 being part of the class. Their participation in this class action  
2 is too passive for the equitable doctrine of judicial estoppel to  
3 apply.

4 4. The Court denies Defendant's Motion to Dismiss Claims of  
5 Class Members who Failed to Respond to Defendant's Discovery.  
6 However, the Court will entertain a renewed motion to dismiss  
7 after class members are provided with one final opportunity to  
8 respond. Defendants were permitted to serve each class member  
9 with 10 special interrogatories and 10 requests for production of  
10 documents. Cruz Docket, ECF No. 150. Magistrate Judge Spero  
11 required Plaintiffs' counsel to send a written notice to non-  
12 responding class members. Cruz Docket, ECF No. 247. The Court  
13 will require Plaintiffs' counsel, within 7 days of this Order, to  
14 send another written notice to these class members indicating the  
15 Court will dismiss them from the class if they do not respond. If  
16 verified responses are not provided to Defendant's counsel within  
17 21 days of Plaintiffs' mailing of the notice, then Defendant's  
18 counsel may file a renewed motion for non-responding class members  
19 to be dismissed.

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